Irregularities in sale of wheat by FCI in Punjab and Haryana

491. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether grave irregularities have been detected in the sale of wheat by the Food Corporation of India under the open market sales scheme during the last financial year in the States of Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of the loss suffered; and

(c) the action taken against the concerned officials of the FCI and the Food Ministry involved in the scandal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Information was received from the Government of Haryana about the irregularities in regarrd to sale of wheat in Haryana under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) i.e. OMSS(D) during the last year.

(b) and (c) A case was registered against the then SRM, FCI, Haryana on 6.1.97 by the Distt. Police Authorities at Rohtak. The main allegation was that illegal gratification was demanded for allotment of wheat under Open Sale Scheme by the agents of SRM, FCI, Haryana. The wheat allocated for open sale under OMSS(D) was reported to have been sold to different parties at exorbitant rates. The entire matter is being investigated by CBI under the supervision of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh. On a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), the Hon'ble Court delivered its judgment on 26.7.97, directing the Deputy Commissioners in the States of Punjab and Haryana to prepare reports on the basis of records available in FCI offices and to make the same available to CBI within two months for further investigation and launching prosecution against the erring parties, if found necessary. The extent of the losses suffered would be known only after the investigation being conducted by CBI under the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana has been completed.

State Government's refusal to accept imported wheat

492. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of imported wheat has been lying in the ports of Gujarat and Maharashtra as the State Governments have refused to accept the same;

(b) if so, the quality and value of the wehat in question and the grounds on which the States have refused to accept the wheat; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that this wheat is utilised before getting rotten at the ports?

THE MINISTR OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Imported wheat is being lifted by State Governments for issue under TPDS and other welfare schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

चीनी मिलों पर गन्ना उत्पादकों की बकाया राशि

493. **प्रो॰ राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा:**
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:

क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गन्ना उत्पादकों की चीनी मिलों की तरफ उनके गन्ने की राशि अभी भी बकाया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) चीनी मिलों द्वारा गन्ना उत्पादकों को उनके गन्ने की बकाया राशि का भुगतान न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और